

for those diagnosed with this life-threatening disease. We need to improve state-by-state tracking of trends, incidences and prevalence of chronic Hepatitis B.

I urge all my colleagues to come together to prioritize this public health issue and support H.R. 4550.

RECOGNIZING GRANDPARENT- HEADED AND OTHER RELATIVE- HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, there are more than six million grandparent-headed and other relative-headed households in the United States. In my home state of New York, 9 percent of the children live with non-parent relatives. These relatives have opened their hearts and homes to children who can no longer, for a variety of reasons, live with their parents. During this holiday season, I would like to recognize these relatives for providing safety, shelter, food, and love. Their kindness and generosity is acknowledge. I extend my most sincere appreciation for the selflessness these families demonstrate and note that their selflessness provides a benefit not only to the children under their care but also to the community at large.

HONORING CAREY HOBBS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the outstanding achievements of Mr. Carey Hobbs. I have had the pleasure of knowing Carey Hobbs for more than 20 years. He is a man who loves his country and cares deeply about his community. He is selfless and unassuming. He is a dedicated family man and a devoted Christian, and I am very proud to call him my friend.

Following his graduation from high school in Abilene, Texas, Carey Hobbs began his life-long association with Texas Tech University as an undergraduate student. After earning his degree, Carey Hobbs joined the military in 1958 and received a commission in the United States Marine Corps. During his five years of active duty, he flew jet fighters and also served as a test pilot.

Over the course of his professional career, Carey Hobbs has become a successful small business owner and a leader in the textile industry. He is a true entrepreneur, who has helped drive innovation and job creation. Since 1972, he has been the President and CEO of Hobbs Bonded Fibers in Waco, Texas. He holds several patents and has served on board of directors for both the National Association of Nonwoven Fabrics Industry and the National Cotton Bating Institute. For eight years, he was a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce Industry Sector Advisory Committee for Trade Policy Matters for Textiles and Apparel. In 1988, Carey Hobbs

was named Small Business Person of the Year for the Dallas District.

Through the years, Carey Hobbs has remained a steadfast supporter of his alma mater, Texas Tech University, and higher education in Texas. He has served on the Texas Tech Board of regents and was President of the Texas Tech Alumni Association National Board of Directors. He has also dedicated his time to enriching higher education through his service on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and as a participant in Texas A&M University's Visiting Executive Program.

Carey Hobbs is an important and positive role for the youth of Texas. He is an active member of the Stonegate Community Church in Waco. He serves on the board of World Hunger Relief and the International Medical Education Foundation, which is working to build a hospital in the Ukraine. Carey Hobbs is also a devoted family man. He and his wife Brenda have five children: Larry, Terri, Angela, Andy and Cindy.

As the Congressman for the Fifth District of Texas and a longtime friend of Carey Hobbs, it is my honor to recognize him for his outstanding achievements in business and in life. Carey Hobbs has truly made his community and his country a better place.

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the Texas State University Football Team that made it all the way to the semi-finals of the Division 1-AA playoffs.

Mr. Speaker, Texas State University, which is located in San Marcos, Texas, represented their school with tremendous pride and ability. The Bobcats finished the season with an 11-3 record and a Southland Conference championship, their first conference championship since 1983.

In only his second year, Head Coach David Bailiff and staff have taken the Bobcats from a good record in 2004 to a great one in 2005. Coach Bailiff and his staff will attempt to bring the national championship to San Marcos next year, a title that would be a restoration of the powerful tradition of Division II national championships in prior years.

Texas State football players have made their school proud off the field as well. Several players have spent time in area San Marcos elementary schools mentoring the children in the community. The team was also honored to have six student-athletes named to the conference's All-Academic team, a testament to the dedication the coaches and players have to achieve in the classroom as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Texas State's outstanding football season and I thank you for this time.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA CONACCHIO

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Barbara Conacchio, who will be honored by the Queens Board of Elections on January 26, 2006 for her 25 years of dedicated service.

Barbara's career with the Queens Board of Elections began in January of 1981, when she was hired as a temporary employee. Less than a week later, realizing what a great asset Barbara was, the Board of Elections offered her a permanent position. Seven years later, in 1988, the Board once again recognized her outstanding work and promoted Barbara to Administrative Assistant, where she performed masterfully. In June of 1991, she was appointed as Chief Clerk of the Queens Board of Elections. Over the past fourteen years, Barbara has held this post with remarkable poise, leadership and distinction.

Despite her hectic career, Barbara has voluntarily served our community through a number of organizations. She is a Past-President of the Knights of Columbus—General Father Sherman Shine Columbiettes, a member of the Queens Historical Society, and Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Mitchell Gardens Co-op.

While Barbara has had a distinguished and praiseworthy career at the Board of Elections, and is celebrated as a community leader, her family—her husband of 30 years, Ronald, along with her two daughters, Amanda and Lisa, and two granddaughters, Brianna and Tiffani—remains the source of her greatest pride and inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great satisfaction that I rise to commend Barbara Conacchio. The accolades bestowed upon her for the 25 years of outstanding service she has given to the Queens Board of Elections are entirely deserved. I know all my colleagues in the House will join me in honoring Barbara for her outstanding work and wishing her many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO DORENA KNEPPER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my California colleague Howard "Buck" McKeon to honor a talented individual, Dorena Knepper, on the occasion of her retirement as director of Government Affairs at California State University, Northridge. Due in no small part to Dorena's hard work, guidance and support, CSUN has become one of the largest and most prominent universities in the California State University system.

Just last year we congratulated Dorena upon the celebration of her 40 years of public service at CSUN. During her impressive tenure, Dorena has made an exceptional contribution both to the university and to the greater community. Working with her on Federal appropriations and other legislative

issues, I have been impressed by her dedication and efficacy. Few individuals are as deserving of recognition.

Dorena's 40 years of service speak volumes about her personal investment in, and dedication to, the CSUN community. Dorena began her relationship with the university as a student at what was then San Fernando Valley State College. Dorena has been employed at CSUN since 1964. Beginning in 1972, she held a variety of positions in the Office of the President, including 16 years as executive assistant for former President James Cleary. Her career in governmental relations began in 1982 when she dealt primarily with community inquiries. Today, as director of Governmental Affairs, Dorena oversees the seamless operation of CSUN's local, State, and Federal Government relations.

Dorena is equally comfortable whether working with national leaders, students, staff, or community members. She is a leader on campus, serving on and chairing diverse faculty, administrative, staff and student committees. She also deals effectively with the concerns of the local community. This dexterity was evidenced by her work during the aftermath of the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. The Earthquake hit the University hard, causing extensive damage throughout the campus. Dorena coordinated visits from local and national leaders to help them survey the damage and plan the recovery. She arranged a campus visit by President Clinton on the first anniversary of the earthquake. That presidential visit brought national attention to the importance of CSUN as a vital center of higher education in the Los Angeles area and helped promote the recovery.

Active in numerous business groups, including three chambers of commerce and the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, she also is a legislative advocate for two nonprofit charitable associations.

Mr. Speaker, please join Mr. McKEON and me in honoring Dorena Knepper, a remarkable woman who has dedicated her life and career to CSUN, its students and to promoting higher education and civic service in the San Fernando Valley. We all wish her a fulfilling retirement.

URGING MORE AID TO PAKISTAN FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw the attention of my colleagues to the growing tragedy in Kashmir, a northern region of Pakistan located along the Indian border. In early October of this year, an earthquake devastated that area, killing tens of thousands of people and leaving millions more homeless. Each passing day brings new heartbreak to that remote region as exposure, illness, and famine continue to wreak havoc on the population. These people are desperate, and they need our help.

The earthquake's epicenter hit Muzaffarabad, the regional capital, and registered a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale. For comparison, the 1989 earthquake that hit San Francisco had a magnitude of 7.1

and its epicenter was more than 70 miles away. The Pakistani Government has reported that at least 73,000 people have died, 15,000 they believe to be school children. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank reported in their assessment after the quake that at least 3.5 million people have been displaced, and that another 1.6 million are without adequate food supplies.

This mountainous region of Pakistan lies at the foothills of the great Himalayan Mountains. The area receives as much as 10 feet of snow during the winter months, and nighttime temperatures can easily drop to 50 degrees Fahrenheit below zero. As winter quickly approaches, the severe potential for further catastrophe grows for the millions of homeless Pakistanis living in makeshift tent communities.

Mr. Speaker, the earthquake that devastated the capital city and surrounding communities disastrously separated brother from sister, parent from child, and destroyed the lives and livelihoods of countless families. International aid organizations have speculated that the tragedy of the quake's aftermath could surpass that of the tsunami that struck just months earlier given the region's severe climate, remoteness, and the shortfall of international assistance. Without immediate action by the international community, thousands more will surely perish.

The World Bank estimates that \$5.2 billion will be needed to adequately rebuild the region and care for the quake's victims. The Bush administration has provided \$50 million in emergency assistance and pledged another \$150 million; however, more is needed. For this reason I have written to President Bush requesting that he double his request to Congress, and provide \$300 million towards Pakistani reconstruction.

The United States and Pakistan have long worked together, and jointly we are fighting the ongoing war on terror. In addition, additional aid from our country would send a signal to other nations that the United States stands ready to help in times of need. Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues in the House to strongly support measures that would send additional aid to help alleviate the suffering the Pakistani people.

STATEMENT ON REMOVING NAME FROM H.J. RES. 73

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I want to explain why I sought and obtained unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 73, a resolution introduced by my friend and colleague Rep. JACK MURTHA calling for the rapid withdrawal of American forces from Iraq.

In short, my name was added in error. But I'd like to take this opportunity to explain why I cannot support Mr. MURTHA's resolution at this time.

Rep. MURTHA's call for the rapid redeployment of U.S. forces carries significant weight in Congress because he is not only a decorated veteran, but also one of the most respected voices in our country on military and national security policy.

Like Rep. MURTHA, I believe the Bush administration has largely failed in Iraq because the civilian direction of the war has not matched the skill and sacrifice of our soldiers. Going to war the way we did was a strategic mistake, and the aftermath has been a failure because of the president's refusal to plan and refusal to listen.

Unlike Mr. MURTHA, I voted against the resolution authorizing the president to rush to war in the first place. I did so because I had concerns about the president's refusal to consider more aggressive inspections of WMD before going to war, his inability to secure greater international support, his obvious failure to develop a plan for securing peace after ousting Saddam, and his reckless disregard of experienced military advice.

Although I was an outspoken opponent of going to war in Iraq, I have supported our brave soldiers because it has seemed to me that our national security is now linked, like it or not, to a credible plan for stabilizing Iraq and preventing a catastrophic civil war in the region.

I remain concerned about setting an arbitrary date for withdrawal because how we leave is as important as when we leave. Nevertheless, Mr. MURTHA's call, coupled with the evaporation of public confidence in the president's management of the war, should be a wake-up call to the president to develop a strategy that can garner bipartisan support and set an unmistakable path toward exiting Iraq expeditiously and with our interests and security intact.

This country cannot have 535 commanders-in-chief. There can only be one commander-in-chief, and we need him to better explain his strategy and to be honest with the American people about the costs and timetable for executing that strategy.

We were led into war as a divided nation and today we are even more divided. A successful outcome in Iraq can only be helped if Congress and the Bush Administration work to bring unity at home. In a hopeful sign, that kind of unity was on display when the Senate recently passed with overwhelming bipartisan support a resolution requiring accountability by the president in Iraq. The House should, at a minimum, do the same.

IN MEMORY OF HANK GROVER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to announce the passing of a great Texan, Henry Cushing "Hank" Grover, a man of singular vision and integrity. Born of humble roots in Corpus Christi, Texas, and raised in San Antonio during the Great Depression, Hank understood what it was to be humble and poor.

The middle child of eight, Hank was raised with solid grounding in those values Americans hold dear. His mother was a German immigrant, and his father was a descendent of Irish roots. Hank was a sixth generation Texan, whose family predated even the Republic of Texas. His great-great grandfather was the first European doctor on Texas soil, and his studies of Kickapoo medicine are archived in The University of Texas library. His